

The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

Heather Embroidery

Have you seen the new Scotch heather embroidery, which, worked in soft tones of pink and violet, gives the effect of masses of the Scotch bloom dropped on the linen? This is in high fashion for table embroidery and sofa pillows, for ends of bureau scarfs and table runners.

This work is simple if you do not find French knots monotonous. The design is stamped in a series of dots for the flowers and of short lines for the foliage. The heather is worked entirely in French knots the effect gained by the combination of the colors. The foliage is done in outline, green for the stems, with short side stitches for the leaves.

While the heather designs are popular for this work the same idea of knots and shadow foliage is used for other small flowers. Goldenrod embroidery is enjoying a revival and is done in this heather stitchery.

Silks and mercerized cotton are used. The latter can be had in artistic tones that launder well and is much cheaper than filo or rips silks. A heavy cotton is preferable, as the knots are thicker.

In making a French knot hold the thread with the left thumb until the needle is just ready to be pulled through at the eye, otherwise the thread slips and gives a loose, uneven knot. The number of times the thread is thrown round the needle should be the same for each knot, and the needle in being put down through the material after winding should go as close as possible to the hole from which it came up, but not in it, as there is danger of the knot pulling through to the other side if not skillfully managed.

Many persons find it easier to work French knots in a frame, as the material can be held more taut, but with practice it is easily and more quickly done over the finger.

Sunshine in the Home.

It was Mr. Barrie who quaintly said, "Women who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

That is a recipe to learn and apply. If you will not try to be a spreader of joy for the joy it gives do so from selfish motives.

Girls may think this farfetched. Their one thought is to snatch at joy for themselves. It takes experience, perhaps bitter experience, to learn that the joy that counts most is the one with a rebound. Like a rubber ball, the harder you throw it the quicker its return.

The girl who starts on a joy quest for herself cannot say, "I'll be nice to poor Maria, she has such a stupid time," and then go about her sunshine shedding with patronizing airs. She may give joy, but the chances are that her patronage will be felt and resented. The sunshine that counts glows in the heart and must come out.

One need not go into sunshine societies to bask in the rays of joy giving. Nor need that sunshine be for outsiders. Sunshine, shedding, like charity, can profitably begin at home. It is not so exciting, perhaps, to try to brighten the lives of mother or small brother or sister as it is to be a Lady Bountiful, but the reflex action is quite as strong.

Try shedding sunshine wherever you are. Do not let a day pass without doing some little thing to brighten that day for some one else, and you will find your own day more joyful.

Something to Know.

There are certain slight deformities that often appear in children at school which parents should especially look out for, because they are often signs of "something wrong" that, if not checked at once, may become serious later on.

The child with round shoulders must not be allowed to drift month by month and year by year until a chronic stoop, or perhaps curvature of the spine, has developed. She should be taken in hand at once, given suitable exercises, taught how to breathe, and if necessary, made to rest for an hour on her back every day.

The "drooping shoulders" is an indication of commencing spinal curvature, which ought to be treated by the doctor at once.

Weak ankles and flatfoot nearly always first become noticeable during the school age. The child with weak ankles should have dancing lessons, and be given special exercises for the feet and ankles. Tiptoe exercise, running, jumping, and skipping are the best for the purpose.

Let the boy who holds his book close up to his eyes, the girl who reads with her head slightly inclined on one side, the child who complains of headache after using the eyes, be taught to rest the eyes, read in proper light, and have the eyes examined if necessary by an oculist.

Dislike of lessons, as well as headache and nervous symptoms, can very often be traced to astigmatism, short-sight, double vision, or some other defect of eyesight.

Sometimes a mother makes the mistake of trying to bring all children up on the same pattern.

Her two boys are utterly different in temperament. The elder is very phlegmatic, and she has to carefully explain, and scold him very seriously if he has done wrong before she can make the least impression on him.

The younger boy is very sensitive and quick of perception, and requires much gentler handling, but he doesn't get it. She gives him the same treatment as his brother.

The wise plan is to bring all of them up on the same general principles, but to study the individual temperament of each. This is absolutely necessary if they are to do their best and make a real success of life.

The Real Pierrot Ruff.

The newest thing in neck fixings is an altogether joyful, really, truly ruff for Pierrot. There have been heaps of them, called—but this at last is the real thing. Daring and dainty, built out of fine white tulle, wide as one's shoulders—impossibly wide—as exaggerated and silly and delightful as ever the heart of Made-moiselle herself could wish, it fairly sings of itself the "An chaire de lune, mon ami," etc., that the style always recalls till no one, spying the wee pointed rosettes darting out of the silvery mist of its folds, could help loving it to distraction. Sheer as a dragon-fly's wing, exquisite, perishable—it would take the moth-eaten soul of the staid old German professor deep-dyed in philosophy, to condemn this delicious piece of folly.



PICTURESQUE MODELS IN VOILE AND MUSLIN.

L'Art de la Mode.

Little Things of Interest Here and There

Now that the time of the year approaches when we like to be in the woods and go a-plucking and acquire headaches and freckles to say nothing of bugs down our backs and caterpillars up our sleeves, a few receipts for sandwiches may be welcome.

Be sure to cut the bread thin, and have a fine-grained loaf. Nothing is more unappetizing than a thick, clumsy sandwich.

The butter must be soft, not melted. This expedites spreading, and does not break the thin bread. Be careful in spreading that the bread is buttered on the opposite side of alternate slices, or they will not fit.

Butter both slices of bread, but put the filling on one slice only. Press on the top slice, and cut the crusts with a sharp knife. Put neatly on a platter and cover until ready to use with a damp napkin. This keeps the bread from drying out.

The sandwich can thus be prepared hours before needed. Sandwich fillings may be roughly classified as sweet, meat and fancy. Here are a few nice fillings of each grade:

Spread slices of brown bread with grapefruit marmalade, through which is chopped candied ginger. Another good sweet mixture is pineapple preserves mixed with candied cherries. Equally delicious is bar-le-due and cream cheese, or grated maple sugar and chopped black walnuts.

Never use slices of meat in a dainty sandwich. Put the meat through a fine chopper until it is almost a paste. Cold chicken, lamb, duck, and game make a delicious and simple filling by seasoning highly with salt, pepper, and a pinch of cayenne, then moistening

with rich cream—or whipped cream—until the mixture spreads easily.

Mincemeat or tongue is better when moistened with mayonnaise. Cold fish mixtures can be treated in the same way, but are improved by chopping olives through the dressing.

A good fancy filling is made from cream cheese mixed to a paste, with French dressing, and seasoned with chopped green peppers and slices of olives. Another good mixture is made from the outer leaves of head lettuce—the hearts can be used for salad—cut up fine, mixed with mayonnaise, and sprinkled thickly with crisp bacon cut in small pieces.

Red pepper sandwiches are artistic and appetizing. Use the canned sweet red peppers, chop fine, and mix to a smooth paste with mayonnaise. For a spring sandwich nothing is nicer than water cross, chopped and mixed with French dressing. Put a thick layer of the cross on the bread and cover with thin slices of small red radishes.

Equally springlike is the onion sandwich. Use the large Spanish onions, chop very fine and mix with a highly seasoned mayonnaise.

A rather rich filling is made from snappy cheese thinned with mayonnaise with chopped cream nuts and red peppers stirred in. On top of the mixture is placed an anchovy or a bit of boned and skinned sardine.

A New Note in Headgear. The cardinal's cap is distinctly new and its design is a natural consequence of the election of the three American cardinals. It is made of pearls strung on gold wire, and is worn as a theatre cap in lieu of the neat cap of lace and net.

Dress Hints for the Bride

Skill in designing a trousseau, practical sense in making over and using what is on hand partly worn and care in selecting chic, becoming articles will wonderfully improve a wardrobe. Avoid extremes unless blessed with many changes. Piece from startling combinations of color or fabrics, wear only becoming styles, and remember that clothing the human body is worth mental effort and physical labor, and cultivate good style and individuality.

The proper design will be much used by brides, as it lends itself to the use of lace, lace, or all-over crepes, nets, tulle, chiffon and such thin draperies over the traditional satin. The proper effect will be draped low down on each side and apparently held in place with a spray of orange blossoms. In some instances trails of blossoms from these will be carried over the train.

The surplus of fabric effects are favored for corsages and long or three-quarter sleeves. Silk, pearl, crystal and silver embroidery are very chic on such a gown. Veils of all-over lace of thin texture or lightly figured net are fashionable, which are usually trimmed all around the edges with an edging one to two inches wide. The draping of the veil is a very important part of the toilet of a bride, and this season many cap ideas are followed in arranging the hair and veil in mob, Dutch, French or German peasant style, with a half wreath, tiny bunches of flowers or long sprays gracefully grouped.

Tulle is now pronounced the correct traveling gown, using the shot or striped fabric and trimming with plaiting and puffing of the same. If it is very warm weather, some of the best wash silks will answer, such as pongee, shantung, etc., all of which are delightfully cool. In these days of palace cars and boats traveling down the river, homey dark suits or enveloping coats to keep the dust away.

No outfit is complete without a thoroughly French suit of satin combination, black skirt and white coat, the latter trimmed with black collar and jet buttons. Another would be an openwork embroidered batiste frock with sheer waist and val lace over a pink or blue slip.

On the Selection of a Country Home

Important Points Overlooked—House Not Everything.

Before you start out on a tour of the suburbs to select a home for the summer spend at least one evening in drawing up a summary of what you will need. Don't leave too much to the real estate agent or to the enthusiasm of well meaning but mistaken friends.

How far is the house from the station? How many minutes is the station from the office? What is the commutation rate? Is there a good train service? These are the first questions to be considered. A New Yorker once brushed aside all such considerations, took a train out of New Jersey, got off at the first town where all the porches were not enclosed with screens, and then selected his house. But that is not the way most men want to do it, or can do it. There are better ways to locate the mosquito's habitat than by watching for screened porches, also there are greater nuisances than mosquitoes in some towns.

So inspection of the house is deferred until after the town is qualified. The next questions are how many rooms has the house and what is the condition of the mechanical equipment, including plumbing, water pipes, gas pipes or electrical wiring and heating apparatus, the dryness of the cellar, the state of the wall coverings—all these factors and more of the same sort should receive careful attention. But there are other points hardly less important to the health and happiness of the family that you might overlook through inexperience or because in

previous summer quarters everything was perfect. Then consider these things. Which point of the compass does the house face? Does the sun get directly into the rooms where it is wanted, or does it pour too freely into those where it is not wanted in the summer time? What is the direction of the prevailing winds, do they reach the front porch, the living quarters and the bed chambers, or do they waste themselves on the rear?

Where are the shade trees with relation to the sun and the breezes? Do they properly protect the sunny side? What is the general lay of the land? Is the house on a hilltop, on a slope, on a broad level stretch, or in a valley? If on a hilltop, you are sure of the breeze, but no so on a slope, on a plateau or in a valley.

Because of the slope of the ground, the direction and directness of the sun's rays or the thickness of the woods on the windy side, you might find yourself in an oven, all the beautiful adjectives in the real estate prospectus to the contrary notwithstanding.

Are there breeding places for mosquitoes nearby, any stagnant pools or places where water may settle after heavy rains? These will answer the mosquito question more decisively than screens on the neighbors' porches. If the house is in a valley, has it a good drainage system all about? Are there provisions to make the water slope away from the house and outbuildings rather than toward them?

Etiquette in a Street Car

This is not a dissertation; it is just something that I saw the other day, and you may read it or not, as you choose, because it is about women and it is about bad manners, and if you are tired of hearing about both, by all means turn the page. The car was crowded—very usually are—and everybody in the car was just as tired as everybody else. Most of the men had lunch boxes with them, and you knew that they had been up long before most of us, even those of us who work for a living, had even thought of breakfast. If you have noticed, and I am sure that you have, there was usually a big crowd of factory girls getting on at Seventh Street; the particular afternoon of the past week was no exception. They filed in, and some of them got seats; and the larger number of them did not. One girl, who was standing quite near the door, was offered a seat. She never said "I thank you"; she never inclined her head; she merely looked the masculine personage over from his head to his heels and gazed calmly past him.

Now, I know what you are going to say—that she really preferred to stand; that she thought the man was tired; probably she was going to get off in a few squares, anyway, and of the little things that we do say when women are rude on street cars—but it strikes me as a very queer idea of common politeness. I saw the man who got up to give her his seat. His eyes were blue, and he didn't wear an eye collar, and I know that he was just as tired as he could be, doing whatever it was that had made him tired—breaking rocks or digging foundations or building engines—and he had probably as much on his mind whether it wasn't better to keep his seat. He seemed rather bewildered by the girl's coolness; of course his feelings were hurt. He didn't know the girl; he did not move in exclusive circles, but he wanted to be kind, and he certainly was unselfish.

Oh, we silly, foolish women, who are so charming and delightful to the people we know and as rude and disagreeable and ill-bred in a public place as though we had no niche in life. The girl that I saw probably says to herself: "I am as good as the rest—or anybody else," but the little girl that worked at the same place and slipped into the seat she was so ill-mannered about said "I thank you" when she accepted it.

Don't you love the story of a very well-known Richmond man of a generation ago, who went to New York and had occasion to ride in the street car there? Some one flung him into a man's seat as if it were his natural right, and at once the good old doctor leaned across the aisle and said quite loud enough for the whole car to hear, "I am sure she is very much obliged to you, sir; it is just a little habit she has, and I hope you will excuse her this time." Everybody laughed, and the woman got off at the end of the block.

It seems so queer that all sorts of people do have such bad manners in street cars. They take up two-thirds of a seat; they sit like graven images when you have rung the bell, and you must crawl over them at the risk of breaking any amount of bones and having to ride another block further on. All of us do it, we just forget.

But you—girl that the man gives a seat to—I think next time he does, I would be very much obliged and take it. I think I should be glad that he was good enough to do it and polite enough to do it and unselfish enough to remember that I was tired, too.

BRENT WITT.

Commencement Extravagance. In an article in the May Woman's Home Companion it is stated that at nearly every high school commencement great extravagance is indulged in. In a good many parts of the country efforts are being made to reduce the amount of money spent for these occasions. A high school in New York City, for example, if it were here the average cost to each, and this year it proposes to reduce it to \$60. A good many obstacles are confronted, however, by those who undertake to preach economy. Following is an interesting extract from the article on this point:

"For illustration: in Xenia, Ohio, there was a determined effort to have the graduation gown simple and inexpensive. The school board, the teachers, and the well-to-do mothers were delighted. Most of the class favored white pouffe skirts and middie blouses, but one girl objected to this plain costume.

At commencement she appeared in a lovely gown and with loads of flowers. As her sister explained, she was 'hand-embroidered all through.' In a mud dress, messaline slip, silk undervest and stockings, and satin slippers, she was far away the best-dressed girl in her class. And her mother makes her living over the wash tub!

"They also tried to bring reform in the High School Commencement in Miamisburg, Ohio, last year, but one of the girls held out against it, with the support of an older sister. The reformers tried to reason with the sister, who was perfectly frank about it:

"We are a family of school-teachers," she explained. "Emily is the youngest, but it will be just the same with her. Five of us have never married, but have gone on with the grind year after year. We never have worn a wedding dress, and never will. I wore a linen suit to graduate in, and I have felt cheated ever since. Emily shall have the prettiest and most elaborate dress we can make for her."

Still One-Sided Effects. The artistic, unbalanced decoration of a gown and in enjoying an emphatic favor for the spring and summer. When a view of the styles is taken the one-sided trimming is very noticeable.

Bodices are draped on one side and plain on the other. They show materials that are distinctly different on the two sides of the blouse, and buttons, braid, lace frills, embroidered revers and pleatings are used on one side to balance trimming of an entirely different nature on the other.

In the meshes and girdles the one-sided effects receive decided favor. In the front and back these meshes, that are used on the majority of models, are knotted, tied or folded at one side.

Skirts are draped up on one side under a strip; rows of buttons, with simulated buttonholes, are found on one side of a skirt. This one-sided, slashed effect is a distinctly different one of the features that many tailored suits are observing.

The idea is to depart from the symmetrical balanced trimming.